



See here the Youth by *Wisdom's* precepts led,
The peaceful Paths of Life securely tread ;
The dang'rous Lures of *Folly* safely shun,
And *Virtue's* pleasant course serenely run,

CHRISTMAS TALES

F O R T H E

AMUSEMENT and INSTRUCTION

O F

Young LADIES and GENTLEMEN

I N

W I N T E R E V E N I N G S .

By SOLOMON SOBERSIDES.

The chearful Sage, when solemn Dictates fail,
Conceals the moral Counsel in a — Tale.

L O N D O N :

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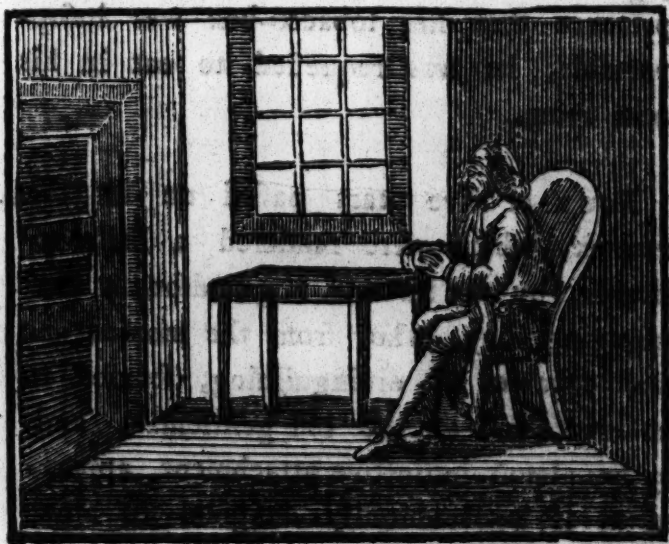
STORY I.

THERE is nothing, in reality, where people are so very wrong as in the education of children, though there is nothing in which they ought to be more absolutely certain of being right: If we seriously reflect upon the customary method in which children are brought up, we must almost imagine, that the generality of parents inculcate principles of religion and virtue into their offspring, for the mere satisfaction of bringing both religion and virtue into contempt; and paint the precepts of morality in the most engaging colours,

lours, to shew, by their practice, how much these precepts are to be despised. The better to illustrate these remarks, let us attend to the following story.

A WORTHY old gentleman, who had by an inflexible industry acquired a large fortune, with great reputation, at length declining business, devoted his sole attention to the settlement of an only son, of whom he was uncommonly fond. In a little time he married him to a woman of family, and judging of the son's affection by his own, made over every shilling he was worth to the young gentleman, desiring nothing more than to be witness of his happiness in the same house, and depending upon his gratitude for any cursory trifle he might want for the private use of his purse.

THE son had not been married however above six weeks, before he was under the sole dominion of his wife, who prevailed upon him to treat the old gentleman with the most mortifying neglect. If he wanted the carriage for an airing, why truly, My lady has engaged it: If he desired to mix in a party of pleasure, They were quite full: He was suffered to sit whole evenings without being once spoken to; at



table

table he was obliged to call three or four times for a glass of wine or a bit of bread; and if he entered into a narrative of any transaction which occurred in his youth, his obliging daughter-in-law immediately broke in upon him, and politely introduced a conversation upon something else. This unpardonable contempt was at last carried to such a degree, that his cough was complained of as troublesome, and under a pretence that his tobacco-box was insupportable, he was requested to eat in his own room.

Four or five years passed on in this manner, which were rendered a little tolerable, by the birth of a grandson, a most engaging boy, who, from the moment he was capable of distinguishing, seemed to be very fond of the old gentleman, and, by an almost instinctive attachment, appeared as if providentially designed to atone
for

for the unnatural ingratitude of his father. He was now turned of four, when one day some persons of fashion dining at the house, the old gentleman, who knew nothing of the company, came down into the back parlour to enquire for his little favorite, who had been for two whole hours out of his apartment. He had no sooner opened the door, than his dutiful son, before a room full of people, asked him, How he dared break in upon him without leave? and desired him to get instantly up about his business. The old gentleman returned accordingly, and gave a very hearty freedom to his tears.

LITTLE *Tommy*, who could not bear to hear his grandpapa chided at such a rate, followed him instantly, and observing how heartily he sobbed, came roaring down to the parlour, and before the whole company, cried out, Papa has made poor grandpapa
break

break his heart ; he'll cry his eyes out above stairs. The son, who was really ashamed of his conduct, especially as he saw no sign of approbation in the faces of his friends, endeavoured to put an easy appearance on the affair, and brazen it out ; turning round therefore to the child, he desired him to carry a blanket to grand-papa, and bid him go and beg. Ay, but



I won't

I won't give give him all the blanket, returned the child; Why so, my dear? says the father: Because, answered he, I shall want half for you, when I grow up to be a man, and turn you out of doors. The child's reproof stung the father to the soul, and held up at once both the cruelty and ingratitude of his conduct in their proper dyes: Nay, the wife seemed affected, and wanted words. A good-natured tear dropped from more than one of the company, who seized the opportunity of condemning, in a very candid manner, their behaviour to so affectionate a father, and so bountiful a friend; and, in short, made them so heartily ashamed of themselves, that the old gentleman was immediately sent for by both, who in the presence of all, most humbly entreated his forgiveness for every thing past, and promised the business of their lives should be to oblige him for the future. The poor old gentleman's joy threat-

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ened now to be much more fatal than his affliction a little before. He looked upon his son and daughter for some time with a mute astonishment, mixed with a tenderness impossible to be described, and then fixing his eyes upon the company with a wildness of inconceivable rapture, snatched up his little *Tommy*, who joined him in a hearty flood of tears.

STORY II.

IN a neat little country town there lived two friends. Mr. *Bridgeman* (who was the elder of the two) was almost as famous as the *Spectator* himself, for saying very little. Yes and No, were the words chiefly in use with him; for (like the *Spectator* too) he was very fond of monosyllables. He lived in great peace and quietness with all his neighbours; and enjoyed his life with much ease, on an income that was rather a comfortable than a large one. His friend, Mr. *Johnson*, had been much richer; but by being too apt to say severe things of other people had made himself so many enemies, that what by quarrels and law suits, and what by having offended his patron, he was reduced to a very low ebb. One evening, as these two friends were sitting by the fire

sive, (which happened to them most evenings; for Mr. *Bridgeman* did not love much company, and Mr. *Johnson*, had quarrelled with, and talked ill of all the people that he had formerly been acquainted with) after the latter had been giving the characters of all the most considerable people for five miles round, and not any one of them without a dash (at least) of his usual severity: Prithee, *Bridgeman*, says he, though every body knows you are such a profound mute, yet do not think that I will have all the talk thus to myself.—It is but fair you should club something to the conversation. Do you now, in your turn, give a character or two of some of our neighbours; for I am sure I have treated you with above one hundred of them. *Bridgeman* smoked on in the most profound silence. Pho! this is carrying your humour too far. Why, I had rather sit by myself than with an absolute dumb man. *Bridgeman*



man smoked on. Nay, dear *Bridgeman*, cried he, favour me with at least one character.

WHEN Mr. *Bridgeman* had finished his pipe, and beat the ashes very leisurely out of it, he launched forth into the following profusion of words; (for with him it was a great profusion :) Good Mr. *Johnson*,
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through the whole course of my life I have been a great inspector of the manners of men ; but as to giving any characters, I must beg you will excuse me. It is, and always has been my way, where I cannot speak well of any body, to say nothing at all. By this means, I am called the mute, Be it so ; since by the same means I continue well with every body ; and, in spite of the badness of mankind, have nothing to complain of from any of them. You see my way to all the ease and happiness I enjoy. Do you follow my example ; and instead of all these jars, quarrels, and perplexities that you are continually engaged in, you would find yourself as unmolested and as happy as I am.

STORY III.

I AM at last safely arrived in *Holland*, and have taken the first opportunity to give you a relation of the adventures that detained me so long in foreign countries.

In my return from the *Indies* I had some affairs with a *Spanish* merchant; which while I was managing in one of their sea-ports, there came a *Spanish* ship, that had taken a rich *Turkish* prize, with several *Turks* and *Moors* prisoners whom he offered to sale as slaves. I never had any traffic of this kind from any view of interest; but from a motive of compassion, I had purchased liberty for many a miserable wretch, to whom I gave freedom the moment I had paid his ransom.

AMONG

AMONG the captives newly taken there was one distinguished by the richness of his habit, and more by the gracefulness of his port. He drew all my attention; of which he appeared sensible, and still directed his looks to me: our souls seemed to greet one another, as if their intimacy had been of a long standing, and commenced in some pre-existent period. There was something in the air of this young stranger, superior to adversity, and yet sensible of the present disadvantage of his fate; I felt for him an emotion soft as the ties of nature, and could but impute it to the secret impression of some intelligent power, which was leading me to a height of generosity beyond my own intention, and by an impulse of virtue on my soul, directing it to the accomplishment of some distant and unknown sign of Providence. The heavenly instigator came

came with a prevailing force, and I could not but obey its dictate.

THE price set on this captive was extravagantly high, and such as would be a



vast disadvantage to my present affairs to part with. However, I listened to the gentle monitor within, and paid the corsair his full demand,

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As soon as I had conducted the youth to my lodgings, I told him he was from that moment free; the price I had paid was for his friendship and liberty.

THEN you have confined me by the most lasting engagements, replied the stranger. I might have broke through any other restraint; but I am now your voluntary slave, and dare trust you with a secret yet unknown to the *Spaniard*. My name is *Orramel*, the only son of a wealthy *Bassa* in *Constantinople*; and you may demand what you will for my ransom.

You will soon be convinced, said I, there was no mercenary intention in this action. The amity I have for you is noble and disinterested: it was kindled by a celestial spark, an emanation from the divine clemency, and terminates in nothing below

below your immortal happiness. And were you you inclined to examine those sacred truths which would lead you to great felicity, and to share my fortune in a free and happy nation, the wealth of the *Indies* should not buy you from my affections; but if it is your choice to return to the customs and religion of your country, you are absolutely free, without attending any terms for your release.

WITH a friendly but dejected look, he told me, it was impossible for him to dispense with his filial obligations to an indulgent parent; but he positively refused his freedom till he had given intelligence, and received an answer from his father; which he soon had, with orders to tell me I might make my own terms for his son's ransom. I desired him to acquaint his father, I required nothing more than the liberty of all the christian slaves he had in
his

his possession ; hoping, by this disinterested conduct, to leave a conviction on the mind of my young friend in favour of Christianity. He could persuade me to receive nothing but a little present, and left me with some apparent concern.

It was some months after he was gone before I could finish my negotiations in *Spain* ; but as soon as they were dispatched I embarked for *Holland*. We had not been a week at sea before the ship was taken by a *Turkish* pyrate, and all the men in it carried to *Constantinople* to be sold for slaves. My lot fell to a master, from whom I was like to find the most barbarous treatment : however, I was resolved to endure my bondage, till I could give intelligence to my friends in *England* to procure my ransom. I was fixed not to give *Orramel* an account of my distress, till I

was in circumstances not to need his kindness, nor expect a retaliation of my own.

But heaven had kinder intentions by bringing me into this adversity, nor left me long without redress. As I was talking in a public place to one of my fellow slaves, *Orramel* came by. He passed



passed

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beyond

beyond me ; but instantly returning, looked on me with great attention, till some melting sorrow dropped from his eyes, when, making inquiry of some that were near, to whom I belonged, and being informed, without speaking a word to me, he flew to my new master, paid his demand for my ransom, and immediately conducted me to his house, where he welcomed me with the warmest marks of affection. He spoke, he paused, and was in the greatest perplexity to find language suitable to the sentiments of his soul.

My brother ! said he, my friend ! or, if there are more sacred ties in nature or virtue, let me call you by some gentler appellation ! we are now united by the bands of celestial amity, one in the same holy faith, and hope of a glorious immortality. Your charity rescued me from a worse than the *Spanish* slavery, from the
bondage

bondage of vice and superstition! your conduct banished my prejudices to the Christian name, and made way for the entrance of those heavenly truths to which I now assent. But this is a secret even to my own domesticks; and whether such a caution is criminal I am not yet able to determine.

WITH what rapture, what attention, did I listen to this language! I blessed the accents that told me my friend, my *Orramel*, had embraced the Christian faith. An angel's song would have been less melodious. I looked upward, and with a grateful elevation of mind, gave the glory to the supreme Disposer of all human events. The instinct was from above, that first moved me to ransom this young captive; thence was the spring of my compassion: It would be vanity, it would be the most crimi-

nal arrogance, not to ascribe this action to the assisting Deity.

THE illustrious Ornamel made it his joy, his study, to evince his affection: He told me, his father died since we parted in Spain; and that he left three daughters that he had by several wives. He offered me the choice of his sisters if I had any thoughts of marriage, and promised a dowery with her to my content. One of them, he said, was privately bred a Christian by her mother, a beautiful woman of Armenia. I was pleased with the proposal, and impatient to see my fair mistress. In the mean time he made me a present of several rich habits, and two negroes to attend me. THE next day he conducted me to a fair summer-house, whither he sent for his sisters; who were all so very handsome, that

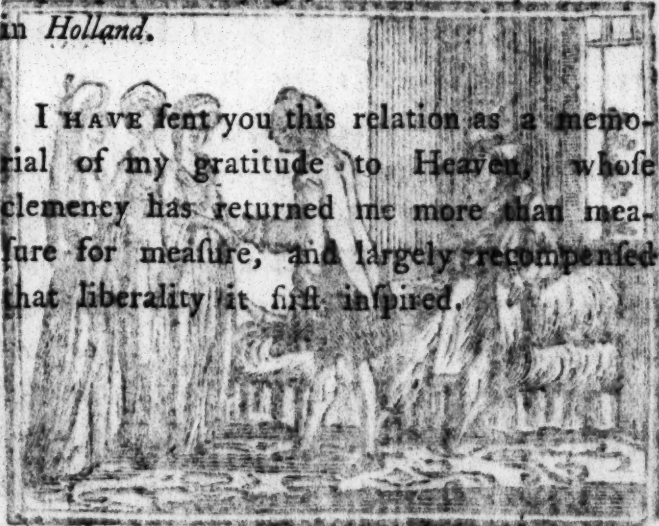
that I was distressed with my own liberty, nor knew where to chuse, had not a principal of piety directed me to the young *Armenian*; who was not superior to the rest, but there was a decorum in her behaviour which the others wanted. She had



more of the politeness and modesty of *European* women, to whom you know I was always partial. My choice was fixed; and

the more I conversed with my mistress, the more reason I had to approve it. We were privately married by a chaplain belonging to the *British* Envoy. My generous friend gave her a fortune which abundantly repaired all my losses, and, after a prosperous voyage, I am safely landed in *Holland*.

I HAVE sent you this relation as a memorial of my gratitude to Heaven, whose clemency has returned me more than measure for measure, and largely recompensed that liberality it first inspired.



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STORY

STORY IV.

SOON after the conclusion of the last peace the Duke of Montague had observed, that a middle aged man, in something like a military dress, of which the lace was much tarnished, and the cloth worn threadbare, appeared at a certain hour in St. James's Park, walking to and fro in



pleased

the

the *Mal.*, with a kind of mournful solemnity, or ruminating by himself on one of the benches, without taking notice of the gay croud which surrounded him.

THIS man the Duke singled out, as likely to be a fit object to exercise his humanity on. He began, therefore, by making some enquiry concerning him, and soon learned that he was an unfortunate gentleman, who, having laid out his whole stock in the purchase of a commission, had behaved with great bravery in the hopes of preferment; but, upon the conclusion of the peace, had been reduced to starve on half-pay; he also learned on farther enquiry, that the Captain, having a wife and several children, had been reduced to the necessity of sending them down into *Yorkshire*, whither he constantly remitted one moiety of his half-pay, which would not subsist them near *London*: These particulars pleased

pleased the Duke, and he immediately set about his operation.

AFTER some time, when every thing had been prepared, he watched an opportunity, when the Captain was sitting alone buried in thought, to send his servant to him; with his compliments, and an invitation to dinner the next day. He returned thanks for the honour intended him, and promised to wait upon his Grace at the time appointed, when the Duke received him with particular marks of civility. Word was presently brought that dinner was served up; but the Captain's wonder was great to see his wife and children at the table. The Duke had began by sending for them out of *Yorkshire*, and had as much, if not more, astonished the lady than he had done her husband, to whom he took care she should have no opportunity to send a letter.

It is much much more easy to conceive than to describe a meeting so sudden, unexpected, and extraordinary; suffice it to say, that it afforded the Duke the highest entertainment; who at length, with much difficulty, quietly seated them at the table, and persuaded them to fall too, without thinking either of yesterday or to-morrow. Soon after dinner was over word was brought to the Duke, that his lawyer attended about some business by his Grace's order. The Duke, willing to have a short truce with the various enquiries of the Captain about his family, ordered the lawyer to be introduced, who pulling out a deed that the Duke was to sign, was desired to read it, with an apology to the company for the interruption: The lawyer began to read, when to compleat the adventure, and the confusion and astonishment of the poor Captain and his wife, the deed appeared to be a settlement made upon them of a genteel



genteel sufficiency for life, the Duke then signed, sealed, and delivered it into the Captain's hands, desiring him to accept it without compliments, For, says he, I am certain I could not have employed my money or my time more to my satisfaction in any other way. The Captain and his family left the Duke with prayers for his posterity, whilst he himself had the satisfaction of saying he had relieved the distressed.

STORY

STORY V.

EBOULI SINA, a sage Dervise, had passed the night in the house of a poor woman, who had excercised all the duties of hospitality towards him, he was touched with the unfortunate condition to which she was reduced, and resolving to succour her in her misfortunes, he loosened



a stone

a stone from out of the wall of the house, and pronouncing some words over it, placed it again where it was before, and pierced it with a little pipe, at the end of which he put a cock, then said to the woman as he returned her his thanks, and bid her adieu,

My good Mother, whenever you are in want of necessaries turn this cock, and draw out as much wine as you please ; take the quantity that is necessary for your own use, and carry the remainder to the market. Be assured that the source will never fail, and all I exact of you is, not to unloose the stone, nor to look at what I have put behind it. The good woman promised she would not, and during some time observed what the holy man had recommended to her. She gathered riches, affluence and plenty soon reigned in her little family, at length curiosity became

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so

so strong within her that she submitted to its dictates, she displaced the stone, and found nothing behind it but one single grape; she then replaced it in the same order she found it, but the wine ran no more: Thus was she, by satisfying her idle curiosity, punished by the same want she before experienced,

STORY VI.

A DERVISE, venerable by his age, fell ill in the house of a widow, who lived in extreme poverty in the suburbs of *Baljora*. He was so touched with the care and zeal with which she had assisted him, that at his departure he said to her, I have remarked that you have wherewith to subsist upon alone, but that you have not enough to share it with your only son, the young *Abdalla*, if you will trust him to my care, I will do all that is possible to acknowledge in his person the obligations I have to you. The good woman received his proposal with joy, and the Dervise departed with the young man.

ABDALLA a hundred times testified his gratitude to him, but the old man^e always

said to him, My son, it is by actions that gratitude is proved : I shall see at a proper time and place whether you are so grateful as you profess to be. One day as they continued their travels, they found themselves in a solitary place, and the Dervise said to *Abdalla*, We are now at the end of our journey. The Dervise striking a light made a small fire, into which he cast a perfume, he then prayed for some moments, after which the earth opened, and the Dervise said to him, Thou mayst now enter, my dear *Abdalla* ; remember it is in thy power to do me a great service, and that this perhaps is the only opportunity thou canst ever have, of testifying to me thou art not ungrateful. Don't be dazzled by what thou wilt find there, think only of seizing upon an iron candlestick with twelve branches, which thou wilt find close to a door, that is absolutely necessary to me. *Abdalla* promised

mised every thing, and descended boldly into the vault; but forgetting what had



been so expressly commanded him, whilst he was filling his vest and his bosom with the gold and jewels which this vault inclosed in prodigious heaps, the opening by which he entered closed of itself, he had however presence of mind enough to seize on the iron candlestick: He searched many

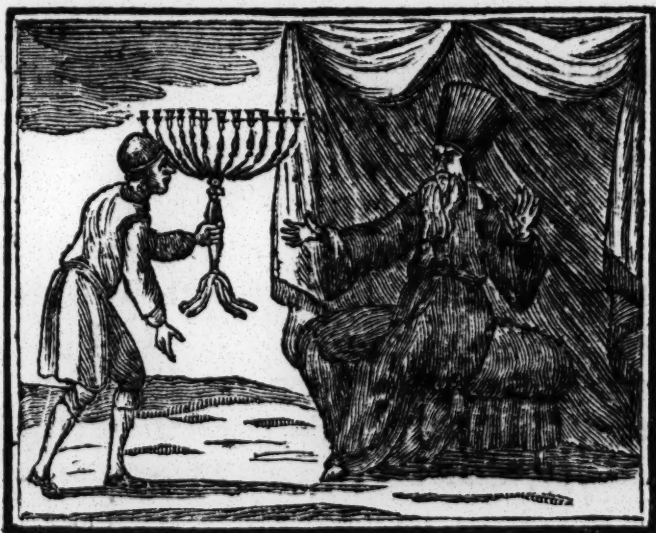
ways to get out, at length, after much pain and inquietude, he was fortunate enough to find a narrow passage, which led him out of his obscure cave, though it was not till he had followed it a considerable way that he perceived a small opening, covered with briars and thorns, through which he came out.

He looked on all sides to see if he could perceive the Dervise, but not seeing him, nor remembering any of the places through which they had passed, he went on as fortune directed him, and was extremely astonished to find himself before the door of his mother's house. She immediately enquired after the holy Dervise. *Abdalla* told her frankly the danger he had run to satisfy his unreasonable desires, he afterwards shewed her the riches; whilst they contemplated on these treasures with avidity, and, dazzled with their lustre, formed a thousand projects in consequence of them, they all vanished away before their eyes.

It was then that *Abdalla* sincerely reproached himself with his ingratitude and disobedience, as he did thus he placed the candlestick in the midst of the room. When night was come, without reflecting, he placed a light in it, immediately they saw a Dervise appear, who turned round for an hour and disappeared, after having thrown them an aspre, or small *Turkish* coin. *Abdalla*, who, meditating all the day upon what he had seen the night before, was willing to know what would happen the next night if he put a candle in each of the branches: He did so, and twelve Dervises appeared; they turned round also for an hour, and each of them threw an aspre. He constantly every night repeated the same ceremony, which had always the same success.

THIS trifling sum was enough to make him and his mother subsist tolerably; but they thinking it but a small advantage they drew

drew from the candlestick, he resolved to carry it back to the Dervise, in hopes that he might obtain of him the treasure he had seen, or at least what had vanished from his sight, by restoring him a thing for which he had testified so ardent a de-



fire. He was so fortunate as to remember his name, and that of the city where he dwelt. He took leave of his mother, and
departed

departed immediately with the candlestick, which furnished him with necessaries on the road. When he arrived at *Magrabi* his first care was to enquire in what house the Dervise dwelt. He got intelligence, and repaired - thither immediately, and found fifty porters who kept the gates of his palace, each having a staff with a head of gold in their hands, the palace was filled with slaves and domesticks, in fine, the court of a Prince could not expose to view greater magnificence.

ABDALLA then enquired for the Dervise; he was soon conducted to an agreeable and elegant pavilion where the Dervise was seated. Thou art but an ungrateful wretch, said he to him; if thou hadst known the true use of this candlestick never wouldst thou have brought it to me. I will make thee sensible of its true virtue. Immediately he placed a light in each of
its

its branches, and when the twelve Dervises had turned for some time, he gave each of them a blow with a cane, and in a moment they were converted into twelve large heaps of diamonds and other precious stones. This, said he, is the proper use to be made of this miraculous candlestick; but to prove to thee that curiosity was the only occasion of my search for it, here are the keys of my magazines, tell if the insatiable miser would not be satisfied with them.

ABDALLA obeyed him, and examined twelve magazines, which were so full of all manner of riches, that he could not distinguish what merited his admiration most. Regret of having restored the candlestick and not finding the use of it, pierced the heart of *Abdalla*; the Dervise seemed not to perceive it, but on the contrary loaded him with caresses. When the eve of the day which he had fixed for his departure was
come,

come, the Dervise said to him, *Abdalla*, I owe thee a mark of my gratitude for taking so long a journey with a view of bringing me the thing I desired ; thou mayst depart, thou shalt find to-morrow, at the gates of my palace, one of my horses to carry thee : I make thee a present of it, as well as of a slave, who shall conduct to thy house two camels loaded with gold and jewels.

ABDALLA said to him all that a heart sensible to avarice could express, when its passion was satisfied, and went to lay down till the morning arrived, which was the time fixed for his departure. During the night he was still agitated, without being able to think on any thing else but the candlestick, and what it produced : He determined at length to seize on the candlestick, which was not difficult, the Dervise having trusted him with the keys of
the

the magazines ; he knew where the candlestick was placed ; he took it, and hid it at the bottom of one of the sacks, which he filled with pieces of gold, and other riches he was allowed to take, and loaded it as well as the rest upon his camels, and after returning the Dervise his



keys,

keys departed with his horse, his slave and two camels.

WHEN he had gone some days journey he sold his slave, resolving not to have a witness of his former poverty, nor of the source of his present riches; he bought another, and arrived without any other obstacle at his mother's. His first care was to place the loads of the camels and the candlestick in the most private room in the house, and in his impatience to feed his eyes with his great opulence, he placed lights immediately in the candlestick, the twelve Dervises appearing he gave each of them a blow with all his might; but he had not remarked, that the Dervise when he struck them had the cane in his left hand: *Abdalla*, by a natural motion, made use of his right, and the Dervises instead of becoming heaps of riches, immediately drew from beneath their robes each a for-

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midable

midable club, with which they struck him so hard and so often, that they left him almost dead, and disappeared, carrying with them all his treasure, the camels, the horse, the slave, and the candlestick.

STORY VII.

TOGALTIMUR-CAN, King of *Tartary*, was one day told he had a man in his dominions, who was such an utter enemy to a lie, that he always spoke truth. He, desirous of having him near him, bestowed upon him the charge of Master of the Horse. A courtier of such a new character could not fail of having enviers, who spared no endeavours to ruin him. But the King, who was not a Prince that would suffer himself to be prejudiced, would judge of things himself, tried his Master of the Horse on several occasions, and always found him so frank and sincere, that he bestowed on him the surname of *Sadyq*, or *True*.

OF all *Sadyq*'s enemies, none was so strongly bent on his ruin as the Visier *Tangrebride* : There was no contrivance which he had not made use of to render him odious to the King, and not being able to compass his end, thus expressed his chagrin to his daughter : How unhappy am I, not to be able to ruin this man, who is scarcely settled at court ; *Sadyq* triumphs over all my attempts to ruin his fortune. *Hoschendan* his daughter, who was not less malicious than the Visier, instead of perswading him to give up the point, promised to assist him, provided he would give her leave to act as she should see fit, and promised to make him lie before the King ; all which he agreed to : She then immediately made herself ready, dressed herself in her richest Jewels, and did not forget one thing which could contribute to her beauty, and make her appear lovely in the eyes of *Sadyq*. Thus dressed she went out attended by her
flaves,

slaves, who guarded her to the house of the Master of the Horse, and when she came thither dismissed the slaves and knocked at the door, which being opened, she desired to speak with *Sadyq* on a matter of great importance; she was invited to come in, and being led into his apartment, found him sitting on a sofa: After salutation she approached him, lifted up the veil which



covered her face, and seated herself on the same sofa, without speaking a word. *Sadyq*, who had never before beheld such beauty, was sensibly touched, which the lady, who came there for no other reason perceiving, broke silence: Oh, *Sadyq*! do not be surprised to see a lady who is willing to entertain a friendship for you; but you must first grant me a favor. Charming maid, said *Sadyq*, transported with tenderness, you need only command your slave and your will shall be fulfilled. I long, says she, to taste some horse-flesh, wherefore you must immediately kill the best and the fattest horse in the Sultan's stable, the heart of which we will order to be roasted. Ask rather my life, said he, and I will give it, but I must have a particular regard to whatever belongs to my master. No, returned *Hofchendan*, I long for a bit of the King's horses; it is a whimsical fancy, but it must, if you have any regard for me

me, be gratified. If I should be so weak as to yield to your entreaties, the Sultan will not fail to punish me. You have nothing to fear, says she; if the Sultan should ask you what is become of the horse, you may say, finding him sick, and past all hopes of recovery, you killed him, lest his disease should infect others. He will believe you upon your word, and commend your prudence.

WITH these persuasions, and her tears which reached *Sadyq's* soul, she at last brought him to consent: He then went himself into the stable, and killed the horse; he took out the heart, which he caused to be roasted, and they both supped together; after which she returned home to her father, who waited the event. In the

morning



morning the Visier rose, went to the palace, and told the Sultan the adventure, concealing the lady's name, and that it was to serve his hatred she had ventured to try the integrity of the Master of the Horse.

WHILST the Visier was relating this story to the Sultan, with all the malice of a courtier

courtier bent on the destruction of his enemy, *Sadyq*, returned to himself, and made many bitter reflections on his last night's misconduct. Alas ! said he, what shall I say to the Sultan when he asks me for his horse ? I that have hitherto made it a law to myself to speak the truth, if I tell a lie shall I not be punished with death ? shall I borrow the assistance of a lie ? that would be to add a new crime to what I have already committed ; on the other side, if I honestly confess it, my sincerity will cost me my life ; whether I lie or speak the truth I am equally sure to loose my life. While he was thus plunged in melancholy thoughts, a messenger came from the Sultan, to tell him the Sultan called for him. He obeyed his order, and came into his presence, where he found his enemy the Visier. *Sadyq*, said the Sultan, I would hunt to-day, go saddle my fine black horse. The words struck poor *Sadyq* with
a deadly

a deadly fear, who, in great confusion, answered, Sir, a misfortune has happened to your servant last night: As I was sitting in my chamber a veiled lady entered, she discovered herself, and profered me her friendship, provided I would give her the heart of the black horse: Charmed with her beauty I reluctantly complied; I confess my crime; I come to offer up myself to



thy mercy : there is my sabre, and here is my head, which I would sooner loose by telling the truth, than save by a falsehood. The Sultan turning to the Visier asked his advice, and what sort of treatment he thought proper for *Sadyq*. Sir, answered he, transported with the opportunity, I am of opinion, that he ought to be burnt by a slow fire, for presuming to kill a horse you so highly valued to satisfy his pleasure. I am not of your opinion, replied the Sultan, then addressing himself to *Sadyq*, he said, I am charmed with your sincerity, and excuse your weakness : I pardon then the death of my black horse, and am so well pleased with your telling me the truth on this occasion, that I order a robe of honor to be brought for you immediately.

WHEN

WHEN the Visier saw, that instead of punishing the Master of the Horse he was rewarded, he grew so extremely melancholy that he fell sick, and soon after died, and the fortunate *Sadyq* was chosen to supply his place.

STORY VIII.

O *MARADDIN*, a principal nobleman in the court of *Soliman*, Emperor of the East, had two daughters, *Almerine* and *Shelimah*. At the birth of *Almerine* the fairy *Elfarina* had presided; and in compliance with the importunate requests of the parents, had endowed her with every natural excellence, both of body and mind, and decreed, that she should be sought in marriage by a sovereign Prince. When the wife of *Omaraddin* was pregnant with *Shelimah*, the fairy *Elfarina* was again invoked; at which *Farimina*, another fairy, was offended. *Farimina* was inexorable and cruel; *Elfarina* placable and benevolent; and fairies of this character were observed to be superior in power. *Elfarina* therefore

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resolved

resolved that her influence should not be wanting; and, as far as she was able, precluded the influence of *Farimina*, who had decreed, that the person of *Shelimah* should be rendered hideous by every species of deformity, and that all her wishes should produce an opposite effect.

The parents dreaded the birth of the infant under this malediction; the moment they beheld it they were solicitous only to conceal it from the world. They sent her, with only one attendant, to a remote castle, which stood on the confines of a wood.



ELFARINA did not thus, however, forsake innocence in distress ; but to counter-balance the evils of obscurity, neglect, and ugliness, decreed, that, to the taste of *Shelimah*, the coarsest food should be the most exquisite dainty ; that the rags which covered her should, in her estimation, be equal to cloth of gold ; that she should prize a cottage more than a palace, and that in

these circumstances love should be a stranger to her breast. To prevent the vexation which would arise from the continual disappointment of her wishes appeared at first to be more difficult, but this was at length perfectly effected, by endowing her with content.

WHILE *Shelimah* was immured in a remote castle, neglected and forgotten, every city in the dominions of *Soliman* contributed to decorate the person, or cultivate the mind of *Almerine*; yet, amidst all these accomplishments she was haughty and fierce, fond of praise, luxurious, and, upon the whole, disagreeable. Among many others by whom *Almerine* had been taught to investigate nature, *Nourassin* the Physician had acquainted her with the qualities of trees and herbs, and of *Nourassin* she became enamoured to the most romantic excess.

It was the custom of the nobles to present their daughters to the Sultan when they entered their eighteenth year; an event which *Almerine* had always anticipated with impatience and hope, but now wished to prevent with solicitude and terror. The period urged forward, like every thing future, with silent and irresistible rapidity, at length arrived. The curiosity of *Soliman* had been raised, as well by accidental encomiums, as by the artifices of *Omaraddin*, who now hastened to gratify it with the utmost anxiety and perturbation, and *Almerine*, covered with ornaments, by which art and nature were exhausted, was however reluctant, introduced to the Sultan. *Soliman* was now in his thirtieth year; he had sat ten years upon the throne, and, for the steadiness of his virtue, had been surnamed the *Just*.

SOLIMAN having gazed some moments upon *Almerine* with silent admiration, rose



up, and turning to the princes that stood round him, To-morrow, said he, I will grant the request which you have often repeated, and place a beauty upon my throne, by whom I may transmit my dominion to posterity: To-morrow the daughter of *Omaraddin* shall be my wife. The joy with which

which *Omaraddin* heard this declaration, was abated by the effect which it produced upon *Almerine*, who after some ineffectual struggles with the passions which agitated her mind, threw herself into the arms of her women, and burst into tears. *Soliman* immediately dismissed his attendants, and taking her in his arms, enquired the cause of her distress; this, however, was a secret which neither her pride nor her fear would suffer her to reveal. She continued silent and inconsolable; and *Soliman*, though he secretly suspected some other attachment, yet appeared to be satisfied with the suggestions of her father, that her emotion was only such as was common to the sex upon any great and unexpected event. He desisted from further importunity, and commanded that her women should remove her to a private apartment of the palace, and that she should be attended by his physician *Nourassin*.

NOURASSIN,

NOURASSIN, who had already learned what had happened, found his despair relieved by another interview. The lovers, however, were restrained from condolence and consultation by the presence of the women, who could not be dismissed; but *Nourassin* put a small vial into the hand of *Almerine* as he departed, and told her, that it contained a cordial, which, if administered in time, would infallibly restore the chearfulness and vigour that she had lost. These words were heard by the attendants, though they were understood only by *Almerine*; she readily comprehended the contents of the vial was poison, which would relieve her from langour and melancholy, by removing the cause, if it could be given to the Sultan before her marriage was compleated. After *Nourassin* was gone she sat ruminating on the infelicity of her situation, and the dreadful events of the morrow, till the night was far spent; and then,

then, exhausted with perturbation and watching, she sunk down on the sofa, and fell into a deep sleep.

THE Sultan, whose rest had been interrupted by the effects which the beauty of *Almerine* had produced upon his mind, rose at the dawn of day, and sending for her principal attendants, who had been ordered to watch in her chamber, eagerly enquired what had been her behaviour, and whether she had recovered from her surprise. He was acquainted that she had lately fallen asleep, and that a cordial had been left by *Nourassin*, which he affirmed would, if not too long delayed, suddenly recover her from languor and dejection, and which, notwithstanding she had neglected to take. *Soliman* derived new hopes from this intelligence, and that she might meet him at the hour of marriage with the chearful vivacity which

which the cordial of *Nourassin* would inspire, he ordered that it should, without asking her any questions, be mixed with whatever she first drank in the morning.



ALMERINE, in whose blood the long continued tumult of her mind had produced a feverish heat, awaked, parched with thirst, and called eagerly for drink: Her attendant, having first emptied the vial into
the

the bowl as she had been commanded by the Sultan, presented it to her, and she drank it off.

As soon as she had recollected the horrid business of the day she missed the vial, and in a few moments learned how it had been applied. The sudden terror which now seized her, hastened the effects of the poison.

HER disorder was now apparent, though the cause was not suspected. *Nourassin* was again introduced, acquainted with the mistake, an antidote was immediately prepared and administered; and *Almerine* waited the event in agonies of body and mind which are not to be described. The commotion every instant increased; sudden and intollerable heat and cold succeeded each other, and in less than an hour she was covered with a leprosy, her hair fell, her head swelled and every
feature

feature in her countenance was distorted. *Nouraffin*, who was doubtful of the event, had withdrawn to conceal his confusion; and *Almerine* not knowing these dreadful appearances were the presages of recovery, conceived her dissolution to be near, and in the agony of remorse and terror, earnestly requested to see the Sultan. *Soliman* hastily entered the apartment, and beheld the ruins of her beauty with astonishment, which every moment encreased, while she discovered what had been intended against him, and which had now fallen upon her own head.

SOLIMAN, after he had recovered from his astonishment, retired to his own apartment, and in the interval of recollection, he soon discovered, that the desire of beauty had seduced him from the paths of justice, and that he ought to have dismissed the person whose affections he believed to have another object. He did not therefore take
away

away the life of *Nouraffin* for a crime to which himself had furnished the temptation; but as some punishment was necessary as the sanction to the laws, he condemned him to perpetual banishment. He commanded that *Almerine* should be sent back to her father, that her life might be a memorial of her folly; and he determined if possible, to atone, by a second marriage, for the errors of the first.

He considered how he might enforce and illustrate some general precepts, which would contribute more to the felicity of his people, than his leaving them a sovereign of his own blood; and at length he determined to publish this proclamation throughout all the provinces of his empire. *Soliman*, whose judgment has been perverted, and whose life endangered, by the influence and treachery of unrivalled beauty, is now resolved to place equal deformity upon his throne,

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that

that, when this event is recorded, the world may know, that by vice beauty became more odious than ugliness; and learn, like *Soliman*, to despise that excellence, which without virtue is only a specious evil, the reproach of the possessor, and the snare of others.

SHELIMAH, during these events, experienced a very different fortune. She remained till she was thirteen years of age in the castle; and it happened, that about this time the person to whose care she had been committed, after a short sickness, died. *Shelimah* imagined that she slept; but perceiving that all attempts to waken her were ineffectual, and the stock of provisions being exhausted, she found means to open the wicket, and wandered alone in the wood. She satisfied her hunger with such berries and wild fruits as she found, and at night, not being able to find her way back,
lay

lay down under a thicket and slept. Here she was awaked early in the morning by



a peasant. The man asked her many questions ; but her answers rather encreasing than gratifying his curiosity, he set her before him on his beast, and carried her to his house in the next village, at the distance of about six leagues. In this family she was the jest of some, and the pity

of others; she was employed in the meanest offices, and her figure procured her the name of *Goblin*. But amidst all the disadvantages of her situation, she enjoyed the utmost felicity of food and rest; as she formed no wishes, she suffered no disappointment; her body was healthful, and her mind at peace. In this situation she had continued four years, when the heralds appeared in the village with the proclamation of *Soliman*. *Shelimah* ran out with others to gaze at the parade; she listened to the proclamation with great attention, and when it was ended, she perceived that the eyes of the multitude were fixed on her: One of the horsemen at the same time alighted, and, with great ceremony, entreated her to enter a chariot which was in the retinue, telling her, That she was without doubt the person whom nature and *Soliman* had destined to be their Queen. *Shelimah* replied with a smile, That she
had

had no desire to be great; but, said she, if your proclamation be true, I should rejoice to be the instrument of such admonition to mankind; and upon this condition I wish that I were indeed the most deformed of my species. The moment this wish was uttered, the spell of *Farimina* produced a contrary effect. A white robe was thrown over her by an invisible hand, the croud fell back in silent astonishment, and gazed with insatiable curiosity upon such beauty as before they had never seen. *Shelimah* was not less astonished than the croud: She stood awhile with her eyes fixed upon the ground, and finding her confusion encrease, would have retired in silence, but she was prevented by the heralds, who having with much importunity prevailed upon her to enter the chariot, returned with her to the metropolis, presented her to *Soliman*, and related the prodigy.

SOLIMAN looked round upon the assembly in doubt, whether to prosecute or relinquish his purpose, when *Abbaran*, an hoary sage, who had long presided in the council of his father, came forward, and placing his forehead on the foot-stool of the throne, Let the Sultān, said he, accept the reward of virtue, and take *Shelimah* to his bed. In what age, and in what nation, shall not the beauty of *Shelimah* be honoured? to whom will it not be transmitted? will not the story of the wife of *Soliman* descend with her name? will it not be known that the desire of beauty was not gratified till it had been subdued? that by an iniquitous purpose beauty became hideous, and by a virtuous intent deformity became fair? *Soliman*, who had fixed his eyes upon *Shelimah*, discovered a mixture of joy and confusion in her countenance, which determined his choice, and was an earnest

earnest of his felicity; for at that moment love, which during her state of deformity



had been excluded by the fairy *Elfarina's* interdiction, took possession of her breast.

THE nuptial ceremony was not long delayed, and the good fairy *Elfarina* honoured it with her presence, and when she departed bestowed

bestowed on both her benediction. They lived many years the glory and happiness of the people they governed, and *Shelimah* continued a striking proof, that natural or acquired excellence is less desirable than virtue.

S T O R Y IX.

A POOR villager complained to *Mahamoud*, Sultan of *Damascus*, that a young *Turk* of distinction had broke into his house, and insulted him so, that he was forced to abandon it, with his wife and family, to the shameful abuses of this bold intruder, who afterwards escaped, and remained unknown. The Sultan, very much moved, charged the sufferer to come immediately and give him notice if ever that *Turk* should repeat the insult; which he did three days after, and the poor man came and threw himself at the feet of the Sultan, and complained accordingly. *Mahamoud*, taking a few attendants, immediately went with him. It was night when they came to the house; but the Sultan ordered all the lights to be put out, then rushed boldly in, and with his sabre cut
the

the ravisher in pieces: After which he ordered a torch to be lighted, and looking on the face of the malefactor, immediately, with an air of joy, fell down on the ground and praised God. When he rose, he bid the man of the house bring him what victuals he had, which was only some stale brown bread, and butter-milk, of which the Sultan eat and drank heartily; and



then

then being ready to return, at the poor man's request, explained all these mysterious circumstances as follows : You must know, said he, that upon hearing these complaints, and the description you gave me of the criminal, I concluded he could be no other than my own son ; therefore, lest my eyes should suborn my heart, and the tenderness of nature enervate the arm of justice, I resolved, through the undistinguishing veil of night, to give it scope ; but when I beheld it was not he, but only an officer of my guard, I fell down with gladness, to give thanks unto God that my offspring had not in this affair deserved my wrath, nor met with my vengeance. And after all, I asked what provision you had at hand to satisfy my hunger, and repair this fleshly frame, which my resentment would not suffer me to gratify, either with sleep or sustenance, from the moment I heard this accusation, till I had punished

punished the author of your wrongs, and shewed myself worthy of my peoples obedience: For this one example shall make it known among them, that you have a Prince, under whom there is no sufferer so mean who need fear to be denied redress, nor no offender so great as may hope to escape punishment.

STORY X.

HACHO, a King of *Lapland*, was in his youth the most renowned of the northern warriors; his martial achievements remain engraved on a pillar of flint in the rocks of *Hanga*, and are to this day solemnly carrolled to the harp by the *Laplanders*, at the fires with which they celebrate their nightly festivities. His temperance and severerity of manners were his chief praise. In his early years he never tasted wine, nor would he drink out of a painted cup. He constantly slept in his armour, with his spear in his hand; nor would he use a battle-ax whose handle was inlaid with brass. He did not, however, persevere in his contempt of luxury, nor did he close his life with honour.

ONE day, after hunting the Guios, or wild Dog, being bewildered in a solitary forest, and having passed the fatigues of the day without any interval of refreshment, he discovered a large store of honey in the hollow of a pine. This was a dainty which he had never tasted before, and being at once both faint and hungry, he fell greedily upon it. From this un-



usual delicious repast he received so much satisfaction, that at his return home he commanded honey to be served up at his table every day. His palate by degrees became refined and vitiated; he began to lose his native relish for simple fare, and contracted a habit of indulging himself in delicacies; he ordered the delightful gardens of his castle to be thrown open, in which the most luscious fruits had been suffered to ripen and decay, unobserved and untouched, for many revolving autumns, and gratified his appetite with luxurious deserts. At length he found it expedient to introduce wine, as an agreeable improvement, or a necessary ingredient, to this new way of living; and having tasted it, he was tempted by a little to give a loose to the excesses of intoxication. His general simplicity of life was changed; he perfumed his apartment by burning the wood of the most aromatic fir, and commanded his

helmet to be ornamented with beautiful rows of the teeth of the Rein-deer. Indolence and effeminacy stole upon him by pleasing and imperceptible gradations, relaxed the sinews of resolution, and extinguished his thirst of military glory.

WHILST *Hacho* was thus immersed in pleasure and repose, it was reported to him one morning, that the preceding night a disastrous omen had been discovered, and that bats and hideous birds had drank up the oil which nourished the perpetual lamp in the temple of *Odin*. About the same time a messenger arrived to tell him, that the King of *Norway* had invaded his kingdom with a formidable army. *Hacho*, terrified as he was with the omen of the night, and invigorated with indulgence, roused himself from his voluptuous lethargy, and recollecting some faint sparks of veteran valour, marched forward to meet him.

BOTH

BOTH armies joined battle in the forest where *Hacho* had been lost after hunting; and it so happened, the King of *Norway* challenged him to single combat near the place where *Hacho* had tasted the honey. The *Lapland* chief, languid, and long unused to arms, was soon overpowered: he



fell to the ground, and before his insulting adversary struck his head from his body,

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uttered

uttered this exclamation, which the *Laplanders* still use as an early lesson to their children: The vicious man should date his destruction from the first temptation. How justly do I fall a sacrifice to sloth and luxury in the place where I first yielded to those allurements which seduced me to deviate from temperance and innocence! The honey which I tasted in this forest, and not the King of *Norway*, conquers *Hacho*.

STORY XI.

WHILE the *Moors* governed in *Spain*, and the *Spaniards* were mixed with them, a *Spanish* Cavalier, in a sudden quarrel slew a young *Moorish* gentleman, and fled. His pursuers soon lost sight of him, for he had, unperceived, thrown himself over a wall.



The

The owner, a *Moor*, happening to be in his garden, and looking over the wall, was addressed by the *Spaniard* on his knees, who acquainted him with his case, and implored concealment. Eat this, said the *Moor*, giving him half a peach, and come over the wall, you now know that you may confide in my protection. He then locked him up in the garden apartment, telling him, that the next morning, as soon as it was light, he would provide for his escape to a place of more safety. The *Moor* then went into his house, where he had scarce seated himself, when a great croud, with loud lamentations, came to his gate, bringing his son's corpse, that had just been killed by a *Spaniard*. When the first shock of surprise was a little over, he learnt by the description given, that the fatal deed was done by the person then in his power. He mentioned this to no one; but, as soon as it was dark, retired to his garden apartment, as if to grieve alone, giving order

ders that none should follow him. There accosting the *Spaniard*, he said, *Christian*, the person you have killed is my son. His body is now in my house. You ought to suffer ; but you have eaten with me, and I have given you my faith, which must not be broken, follow me. He then led the astonished *Spaniard* to his stables, where, mounting him on one of his fleetest horses, he said, Fly far while the night can cover you. You will be safe in the morning ; you are indeed guilty of my son's blood ; but God is just and good, and I thank him that I am innocent of your's, and that my faith given is preserved.

STORY XII.

IN the days of knight errantry and paganism, one of our old *British* Princes set up a statue to the Goddess of Victory, in a point where four roads met together. In her right hand she held a spear, and rested her left on a shield; the outside of this shield



was of gold, and the inside of silver. On the

the former was inscribed, in the old *British* language, "To the goddess ever favourable;" and on the other, "For four victories obtained successively over the Picts, and other inhabitants of the northern islands."

It happened one day, that two knights completely armed, the one in black armour, and the other in white, arrived from opposite parts of the country at this statue, just about the same time; and as neither of them had seen it before, they stopped to read the inscriptions, and observe the excellence of its workmanship. After contemplating it for some time, This golden shield, says the black knight,—Golden shield! cried the white knight, who was as strictly observing the opposite side, why, if I have eyes, it is silver. I know nothing of your eyes, replied the black knight; if ever I saw a golden shield in my life this is one. Yes, returned the white knight

knight, smiling, it is very probable indeed, that they should expose a shield of gold in so public a place as this is! for my part, I wonder that even a silver one is not too strong a temptation for the devotion of some of the people that pass this way; and it appears by the date, that this has been here above three years. The black knight could not bear the smile with which this was delivered, and grew so warm in the dispute, that it soon ended in a challenge. They both therefore turned their horses, and rode back so far, as to have sufficient space for their career; then fixed their spears in their rests, and flew at each other with the greatest fury and impetuosity. Their shock was so rude, and the the blow on each side so effectual, that they

both



both fell to the ground so much wounded and bruised, that they lay there for some time as in a trance. A good *Druid*, who was travelling that way, found them in this condition.

THE *Druids* were the physicians of those times as well as the priests. He had a sovereign balsam about him which he had

I composed

composed himself; for he was very knowing in all the plants that grew in the fields, or in the forests. He staunched the blood, applied his balm to their wounds, and brought them, as it were, from death to life again. As soon as he found them sufficiently recovered, he began to enquire into the occasion of the quarrel. Why, this man, cried the black knight, will have it, that the shield yonder is silver. And he will have it, replied the white knight, that it is gold; and then told him all the particulars of the affair. Ah! says the *Druid* with a sigh, you are both of you in the wrong! Had either of you given himself time to have looked upon the opposite part of the shield, as well as that which first presented itself to his view, all this blood-shed might have been avoided. However, there is a very good lesson to be learned from the evil that has befallen you on this occasion: Permit me therefore



to entreat you by our gods! and by this goddess of victory in particular, never to enter into any dispute for the future, till you have fairly considered each side of the question.

STORY XIV.

HAMTI, the best and wisest emperor that ever filled the throne, after having gained three signal victories over the *Tartars*, who had invaded his dominions, returned to *Nankin* in order to enjoy the glory of his conquest. After he had rested for some days, the people, who are naturally fond of processions, impatiently expected the triumphal entry, which emperors upon such occasions were accustomed to make. Their murmurs came to the Emperor's ears. He loved his people, and was willing to do all in his power to satisfy their just desires. He therefore assured them, upon the next feast of the lanterns, to exhibit one of the most glorious triumphs that had ever been seen in *China*. The people were in raptures at his condescension, and on the appointed day assembled at the gates of the palace with the most eager expectations. Here they waited
for

for some time without seeing any of those preparations which usually precede a pageant. The lanthorn with ten thousand tapers was not yet brought forth, the fire-works which usually covered the city walls were not yet lighted; the people once more began to murmur at this delay, when in the midst of their impatience, the palace gates flew open, and the Emperor appeared, not in splendor or magnificence, but in an ordinary habit, followed by the blind, the



maimed, and the strangers of the city, all in new cloaths, and each carrying in his hand money enough to supply his necessities for the year. The people were at first amazed, but soon perceived the wisdom of their King, who taught them, that to make one man happy was more truly great, than having ten thousand captives groaning at the wheels of his chariot.

THE END.

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B  L

Coptic
manuscript

